

NORTHERN NEWS

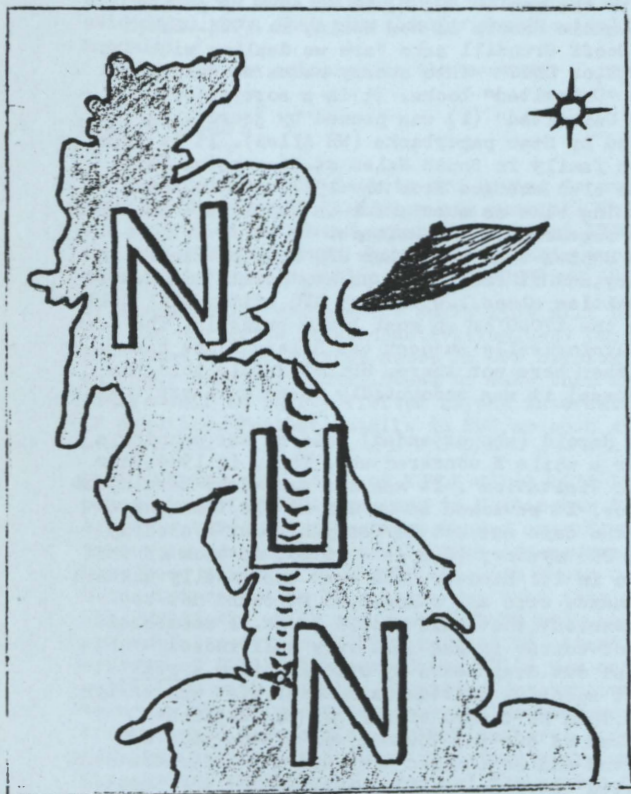


116

NOVEMBER -

DECEMBER

1985



HAPPY
CHRISTMAS
TO
ALL
"NUFON"
READERS

Jenny Randles

Publication of NUFON...UFO RESEARCH NORTH

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This issue's cover designed by Georgina Mills (MUFORA)

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(Payable "NUFON")

Contents:- usual features plus
Fact or Fiction (p.2-3),NUFON
files (p.3),1986 Renewals (p.4)
Cases from:- Scotland, Cleveland
Lancashire,Merseyside & West Yks
CASE HISTORIES:- (p.13-16)
"North Wales Landing" & "Aircraft
struck by UFO over Rendlesham!"

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J.R. Comments...

In 1977 Steven Spielberg's movie "Close Encounters of the third Kind" made a major impact on society. It was fiction based on fact, but has this opened the door to all kinds of fiction, whether based on fact or not?

The question springs to mind thanks to a letter I recently received from NLUFOIG member Geoff Grundill. He asked if I had read the book "The Uninvited 3- The Abduction", by Frank Taylor. This concerns a policeman abducted in Buckinghamshire and the marking he saw on the UFO. The marking, shown in fig

A



B



A will be remarkably familiar to knowledgeable UFO researchers because of its similarity (nay identical nature) to the one in Fig B, as alleged by police officer Lonnie Zamora in New Mexico in 1964. Based on this, Geoff Grundill asks "are we dealing with the same craft, or UFO?" This query makes me duty bound

to discuss what I know about the "Uninvited" books. It is a sorry story.

Readers will recall that "The Uninvited" (1) was penned by journalist Clive Harold in 1978 and published by Star paperbacks (WH Allen). It is based on the experiences of the Coombes family in South Wales at Ripperston Farm. Two other books on the same theme also emerged from the 1977 wave in South Wales; although neither were anything like as successful as Harold's - doubtless because they were written by UFO researchers not writers!

"The Uninvited" has sold more copies than any other UFO book published in the UK in the past quarter century, and it remains in print. Harold has netted something like £20,000 in UK royalties alone... which any UFO writer will tell you is "big bucks" compared with the £2000 or so most books bring in. The fact that the Coombes family tale is ufologically suspect (as Hilary Evans has shown by reinvestigation) is neither here nor there. Whilst Harold told his tale like a novel (hence its success) it was undoubtedly based on a real case involving real (named) witnesses.

At the 1979 BUFORA Conference Harold (who attended) said he was penning a sequel. It has never appeared. For a while I wondered why. Then, in 1984, Star brought out "The Uninvited-2 - The Visitation". It was not penned by Harold, but by unknown journalist Frank Taylor. I reviewed it in NUN at the time and expressed a degree of disquiet. The case was set in Derbyshire with clearly ripped-off bits from the Pennine UFO mystery (per se - if not my book of that title). NUFON even gets a mention in it! However, the case was totally unheard of by any UFOlogist. The witness names were all changed, so it could not be checked, and it seemed rather convenient that this should be so. I dismissed the book as unworthy in NUN, but of course it has sold very well indeed.

In early 1985 I decided to test out Star books by offering them a real blockbuster case (which I did not specify) written as a novel, etc. The editor was very excited and seemed keen. Then he backed off. I got the distinct impression that when he had checked me out and found I was a bona-fide UFO researcher he was suspicious. In the end he claimed they had a regular contract with the author of their "Uninvited" series (implying that Taylor was Harold) and these were all they intended to publish. My feeling was quite certainly that they were perpetrating a hoax and did not wish this to be seen through by involving a real ufologist!

Now - this autumn comes "Uninvited -3" (again by Frank Taylor) and the most disturbingly suspicious of the lot. The case has very clear hallmarks of a rewritten combination of cases like Socorro, New Mexico and the Alan Godfrey abduction. Again no real names are used. Again we are asked to believe that Taylor just happens to have chanced upon this major CE 4 case which no British investigator has ever heard of. Again the legend that this case is true is plastered over the book, whereas Star (unashamedly) market it on the Occult fiction bookshelves in bookshops, alongside books by Stephen King et al.

So what - you might say? Good marketing technique. True, bookshops are buying these "real" non-fiction volumes instead of serious UFO works. But that is tough, since the public are getting what they want.

Indeed, but here is the rub. Some weeks ago I met the editor who bought Harold's book for Star. He now works with another company. He told me that Star had tried to get Harold to bring out Uninvited-2, 3 etc, etc written as fact but totally made up to look like real cases. Harold (to his credit) said no. But hack Taylor had no such scruples. Hence the two sequels and the others ready to stream out of his typewriter as fast as he can dream them up.

Is this true? Since it accords so well with my own feelings, which I in no way expressed before these things were offered to me quite openly, then I suspect it likely is. But what are we to do about it? What can we do?

Probably nothing. But I do challenge Star to prove their "true" stories are true, if indeed they can. And in the meantime I urge every UFO researcher everywhere to take nothing Star books publish seriously. Certainly as evidential data they are clearly about as valid as this year's Rupert Bear annual.

Unless I see evidence to the contrary I rest my case, with some concern.

NEWS ROUND-UP:



:: The Yorkshire UFO Society are hoping to purchase a caravan for use on site in the North Yorkshire moors near all the hive of UFO activity. Its use will then be shared, primarily amongst YUFOIS members, although I believe any individuals/groups who donate towards purchase cost will be looked upon with favour. Send donations (to "YUFOIS") c/o 68 Buller Cres Leeds LS9 6LJ

:: A new BUFORA venture for early 1986 will be a "UFO Yearbook" reviewing all the worldwide research activities, best cases, books and developments of 1985. Some of the biggest names in UFO circles will be contributing reports on their country. BUFORA intend to make this available at low cost and as stocks will be fairly limited anyone interested should reserve that interest if possible. Further details in NUN as soon as available.

NUFON FILES:- The stock of NUFON files 1974-1985 are now back in the possession of BUFORA, who went to Nottingham to collect them from NUFOIS. Approximately 1000 files were handed over. Some are missing, most through traceable sources. However, the high-strangeness cases held on the UFOIN files have been retained by NUFOIS. Despite their continued pretence of no longer being interested in UFOs they say that they dispute the merger of UFOIN with the BUFORA NIC which occurred in late 1981, and was later ratified by those present at meetings. NUFOIS refused to attend these meetings as they did not approve of BUFORA liaison. Since UFOIN was an informal gathering of UFO investigators with no rules, committee or structure, all decisions were taken in this one person/one vote manner at gatherings. We felt that NUFOIS members (two of whom were official UFOIN members) abrogated their right to vote by refusing to attend meetings. Now, four years on, NUFOIS claim they will (indeed already are beginning to) restart the system using the name UFOIN, although they will run it. In which case they intend to hold onto these 150 (approx) high-strangeness (CE2, 3 & 4) case files. ANY ex UFOIN member who disputes this and would like repossession of their case files should notify Jenny Randles as soon as possible so that steps can be taken - as they will be.

FILE LOCATION?... Several groups (WTUFORG, WAPIT included) have offered to store files at their homes. BUFORA have, however, arranged with Manchester University that the files could be stored in the Catholic Chaplaincy on Oxford Road in three cupboards named and locked. Comfortable chairs and tables occupy the study room where the files would be, and access would be possible at any reasonable time midweek or weekend (including evenings) by requesting the key from reception. The venue is 5 mins walk from city centre station Oxford Road, has car-park facilities and a library next door with a photocopier. As this seems the ideal compromise groups are asked to approve the location of the NUFON files at this Manchester venue.

1986 RENEWALS THESE ARE DUE IF AN X SHOWN HERE X

ANY AMOUNT SHOWN IS THE SUM YOU OWE TO ESTABLISH CREDIT FOR ALL 1986 ISSUES.

Subscription for 1986 will remain at £5.40 thanks to new printing arrangements with ENJAY. All who renew by Jan 31st 1986 may do so at the discount rate of £5. Two subscriptions together (provided one is a new subscriber) can be applied for at £8, even if two addresses involved. All cheques etc to NUFON.



FOR YOUR PERUSAL: -

Major articles elsewhere

The Unknown Nov 85 (85p, £12.30, 12 issues, 1 Clarendon Rd Croydon CRO 3SJ)

Peter Hough on the Scorton Adamski "hoax"...JR in the second of her CE 4 series on the Herb Schirmer 1967 abduction...Paul Devereux on stone circle energies...Michael Goss on hallucinations induced by hypnosis...BP. Cashin on the link between regression and possession...plus lots more, good stuff,

FSR 31-1 (£2, or £9.50, 6 issues, FSR Snodland, Kent, ME6 5HJ)

Another massive rise in price, yet sadly not in quality. More reprints from past issues and other mags, more new consultants (the list will soon have more of interest in it than the magazine!) A Japan photo and Argentine cases review of note. We are also threatened with a comprehensive report on the "mystery" of the circles...oh dear! To all those who are asking (especially in the USA) why am I anti-FSR? Answer, I am not, only anti-its current state. And if so many, apparently, have to ask why I don't write for it any more..... just take a look at it, please, and tell me why you still do!

BUFORA BULLETIN 19 (With BUFORA Sub £14.30 Vermont Rd London SE19 3SR)

JR extends the "Doorman" concept (see last issue), Albert Budden on a major IFO exposure in London, plus review of 1985. JTAP (Sept) has Steve Gamble reviewing assessments of witness reliability, Dr Alex Keul with some cases and preliminary results of his anamnesis project, and Mike Wootten with a major statistical review (plus graphs) of 205 BUFORA cases 1980-1982.

ASSAP News Oct 1985 (with ASSAP sub, £6.50 30 South Row London SE3 0RY)

A full report on ASSAPs "Year Four" (1985); cases, research etc. Membership has risen by 21% to 311. Healthy news.

UFO BRIGANTIA (14pp, A4, copied, WYUFORG address - see p.16, £7.50 - 12 issues)

12 (Oct) Iain Johnston looks at the link between religious entities and CE 3 cases. Paul Bennett concludes his fascinating review of the Yorkshire Ripper-UFO connection.

13 (Nov) Iain Johnston continued, Darren Chanter on the Ken Arnold case, Andy Roberts on the Aetherius Society. Plus (in both issues) Yorks cases. Getting better and better each issue...well worth a look.

PEGASUS Sep/Oct (50p from 45 Burden Way Guildford Surrey GU2 6RD)

Nice to welcome back SIGAPs magazine after an absence. One of the longest running in the UK, edited by Omar Fowler. I can even put up with it dwelling on the circles "mystery" as it looks, in-depth, at sample analysis work done in the circles and provides an alleged eye-witness to a UFO creating the rings! Also full report on case which made the Sunday Mirror (see Media Matters)

FATE (UK £1.05, £16 US, 12 issues, 500 Hyacinth Place, Highland Pk, Ill 60035)

Oct - Bruce Macabee on US cases, Hilary Evans major article on his BOLS. Nov - Hilary's BOLS (Balls of Light) continued, plus alleged cattle killing UFO from 1896 US wave. (130pp, many other articles in each issue)

IUR Jul/Aug (£25 US, 6 14pp issues, CUFOS 1955 John's Dr, Glenview, Ill 60025)

Jerry Clark is upgrading IUR so that the only thing wrong with it now is the price. This issues "debate" (there tends to be one per issue) is on Crashed UFOs, between Dr David Jacobs and Richard Hall. D Scott Ego also has an insightful look at CE4 abduction cases from a psychological view.

MUFON Journal Aug (£16 US, 12 20pp issues, MUFON 103 Oldtowne Rd, Seguin, Tx)

A photo-review special of the 1985 St Louis Conference (Burden of Proof) featuring (among others) Schuessler, Gersten, Phillips et al. (1986 details announced - June 27-29 in Michigan). Plus Larry Bryant on F of L update.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



UFOs OVER LANCASHIRE Vol 1 65p Stephen Brown 23 Queen Victoria Rd, Burnley

This is a 34pp duplicated A4 publication intended to be the first in a series. The aim, as the title suggests, is to review UFO sightings in Lancashire. That is a laudable plan and it would be unfair not to point out that much useful material appears. From an 1869 Pendle sighting (of considerable interest) through to January 1984 reports, a pot-pouri is offered, often reprinted news items, sometimes actual investigations. Details are sketchy and cases are concentrated on the Burnley area - but for data compilers there may be some not previously seen. It was regrettable that, for some unexplained reason, quite irrelevant photos and case references (eg McMinnville, Trindade Island, Rendlesham Forest!) keep cropping up. Also there is no attempt at analysis, placing sightings into context, or much structure to the presentation. But it is a first attempt, is obviously aimed at interesting local media and dredging in local case reports from readers. I hope that Vol 2, in preparation, takes account of some of these problems. But for 65p I don't suppose anyone can complain too much.

THE BRENTFORD GRIFFIN, Andy Collins, Earthquest * 1985 42pp £1.25

This is Andy Collins' fifth book-(let) self-produced (* 19 St Davids Way, Wickford, Essex SS11 8EX) and yet of usual very high quality. It is well produced, bound, filled with illustrations and punchily written. All in all the sort of excellent fare we have come to expect with these books over the past five years. None of Andy's books have been about UFOs (the subject he first became active in) - but this one comes close and has much of importance for the UFO researcher. It concerns the mysterious rash of sightings of a 'Griffin' (a mythological beast) over Brentford, in London, in early 1985. The place-name coincidences (eg Brentford FC play at Griffin Park) are all of relevance. Andy tells, in detective story fashion, how he heard of the (naturally) impossible claims and then tracked down the story via local media sources to one Robert Rankin, a local author of "spoof" books (eg "The Brentford Triangle" and "East of Ealing") These "novels" link mysteries like they were going out of fashion and invest West London with UFO bases in local gasometers and MIB invasions of local pubs. They are even mildly amusing in places. I will not reveal the saga which unfolds, but suffice it to say that my editorial this issue about "The Uninvited" is not unrelated, and there is the very curious involvement of "Magonia" in the business - which, if what Andy Collins appears to demonstrate is correct, should rather concern those who regard this magazine as a paragon of serious ufological thought.

If nothing else the investigation technique demonstrated and the motto 'never take anything seriously, unless you absolutely have to, make this book indispensable. Highly Recommended.

EARTH MYSTERIES: An Exploratory Introduction 1985 Brian Larkman & Philip Heselton 36pp Photos etc, £1 from 170 Victoria Ave, Hull HU5 3DY

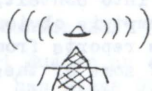
Have you ever wondered what today's fuss concerning "earth mysteries" is really all about? Have those shelves filled with Paul Devereux, John Michel, Paul Screeton and others works ever given you data indigestion because you don't understand the basics and so cannot stomach a 500 page book? If so, relief is at hand. This pocket volume for a modest fee will introduce in simple terms how "earth mysteries" began, what the difference is between the archaeological, scientific and intuitive approaches, what landscape geometry and sacred zodiacs are and where leys fit in. Complete with a useful glossary of terms in current use it's the ideal companion for the interested ufologist.

LES OVNI 128pp 1985 French Universities Press Michel Dorier & Jean-Pierre Troadec

Part of a series of mini-paperbacks entitled "What do I know?" this is a super introduction to French ufology. If your French reaches O level standard (as far as mine goes) you won't have much trouble following it. A very logical book which looks at methods of approach, cases and a great range of theories (eg ET, psychological, sociological, psychopathological, parapsychological & religious) it does (as you can see) cover a lot of ground that the French have a much better understanding of than us. French ufology is very different to UK or American research. It was no accident that the lead scientist in Spielberg's movie was French. As a serious researcher you owe yourselves a look at how they study "the UFOs" (les ovni) over there. No price given. But available from:- journalist and UFO researcher Troadec at BP 4345 69241 Lyon Cedex 04 France.

MEDIA MATTERS:-

A look at UFOs in the public eye



Whilst UFO sightings continue at a lowish ebb the cuttings have picked up in number since September and 1985 will end up not being terribly down on 1984. Not a lot is happening north of Watford, however. Oxford Mail (3 Oct) reported "Field Day For UFO Spotters", telling how Contact UK were chasing lights all over Oxfordshire. "It could be that Astral Intergalactic Tours were offering a special guaranteed no surcharge deal" it was quipped. However nothing much beyond low grade UAPs were recorded.

The big sighting made the Sunday Mirror (29 Sep) "Our UFO Terror" - reporting on the McMurray family from Surrey who were approached by a disc-like UFO, lost power from car battery and subsequently suffered physiological effects on themselves. "UFO watchers believe the area is a target for flying saucers" the daft Mirror writer concluded. Actually BUFORA had been onto the case a week thanks to the Andover Advertiser (20 Sep) which described the disc plus windows pretty well and in less strident language. The "target area" nonsense came because on the same night there were two other independent reports of what seems to be the same object (15 Sep was date of the event). Omar Fowler has been looking into the McMurray case (see Page 4 reviews), along with Stephen Chetwynd of BUFORA. There is a slight suggestion of a CE4, which if true, and considering the independent witnesses, could raise the status of this case to the most important one in 1985 to date.

Up north we had to be content with the fact that "Britain's only UFO" landed "on Ilkestone Lower Market Place" in Derbyshire. (Ilkestone Advertiser 11 Oct). It is, if you hadn't guessed, a fairground ride. Shades of "The Flipside of Dominic Hide" (who remembers that fabulous BBC-TV film!) Or else (Glasgow Post, 13 Oct) reports on a "dead ringer for that famous landing scene from "Close Encounters" when a brilliant light landed on Dunoon Grammar School. Local police were swamped with UFO reports. However, said UFO was a helicopter

rescuing a US Navy diver with the bends. Happily he recovered, as did Dunoon from its UFO fever.

The New Scientist 'Ridpath review' row rumbles on. Peter Warrington replied (24 Oct) and Ridpath responded (7 Nov) under title "UFO fraud?" - although again failing to qualify the word "fraud", simply listing five cases in the book "Science and the UFOs" he believes worthless - Socorro, New Mexico, the Hill & Pascagoula CE4s, Warren, Minnesota, CE2 and the McMinnville, Oregon photos. Of course, Ian R has not said why he believes them useless or why our reference to them in the book means we perpetrated fraud! However, we have closed correspondence with New Scientist by asking them to publish our challenge to the journalist to present his evidence in public and this way allow us to answer his charges for all to see.

Meanwhile New Scientist (19 Sep) did have a useful update on ball lightning ("Cheap Fusion or a load of balls") - an apt description of Ian Ridpath some might say. But no matter. The article reports Dutch attempts at cheap fusion power (a modern scientific dream) using artificial ball lightning! "Outside circles of UFO enthusiasts, the phenomenon has defied explanation" The Dutch scientists "started creating lightning balls in a cheap shed in Rotterdam Harbour" based on old submarine batteries! So far all they have got are 10cm balls lasting less than 1 second, but they are hopeful and they are selling £11 shares and showing film of their B.L. to try to raise £1 million to produce a commercial reactor in 1992.

Guess which UFO researcher replied to that! (Letter published 17 Oct). Stuart Campbell roundly denounced the article "there is no likelihood that ball lightning can become a cheap source of fusion energy" and a Southampton University professor, responding same issue, argued indignantly, "I do not regard myself as a UFO enthusiast".

Way and away the source of most articles in the press over the past two months has been picture after picture of "aliens" in this, that or the other High Street interviewing passers by. Warrington Guardian (11 Oct) were one of many. They had a nice twist "Life on the sci-fi beat" showing two PCs helping the alien with its enquiries. The alien (dressed in motorcycle gear and looking a darned sight more scary than ET - a sort of Hell's Angel from space) was doing a survey, posing questions like "Do you believe in life on other planets?" "Do you think they will come to invade us?" What for? To promote the book "Battlefield Earth" - by Ron Hubbard (leader of the banned Scientology cult). The book has been a huge best seller and they are guaging response for the 1986 sequel "Mission Earth". Apparently aliens "Carl" and "Jim" surveyed 80 towns and discovered "ordinary people had something of an obsession with the subject". About 65% believe in life on other planets and 30% believe it will land one day. The biggest UFO crazy area was - wait for it - Northampton. 53% there believe there could be an alien invasion.

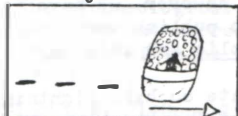
But if all that was not enough we have also been plagued by press items and TV/Radio appearances from our next two friends. (I did a show just after them on BBC Oxford and nearly ended up in jail by saying what I really felt!) Brighton Argus (18 Oct) carried the biggest write up, "Are you living next to an alien?" The title ought to be enough. But the story tells how Michael and Aurora EL-Legion are touring the UK from Arizona, as State Directors of the "National Investigations Committee on UFOs" They reckon that 400 million people on earth are really aliens (including themselves - of course) and that they regularly save the earth from destruction (of course). The EL-Legions prove their case by extolling the virtues of the Billy Liar (sorry - Meir) hoax, from Switzerland, one of the biggest con-tricks of the past decade. Anyone who is taken in by his pictures deserves to pay the £5 a head our travelling aliens are charging for admission to hear their words of wisdom. The money is to offset costs - since it is rather expensive flying across the Atlantic. I am amazed that nobody refused to pay on the grounds that they should have come free, by flying saucer.

BRIEF CASES:-

Some Current Investigations

TAKE THE VERY HIGH ROAD (2)

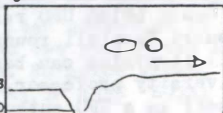
79-163 Jan 20 1979 18.30 Wishaw, Scotland...Mrs MD and husband observed the object over the Clyde Estuary from their top floor flat. At first seen to be stationary, then it moved off. It trailed coloured lights in its wake and itself was greyish metal at the base with orange/red speckled lights on top. It was silent and took approx 10 mins to drift away. During the observation Mrs MD claims, "I could



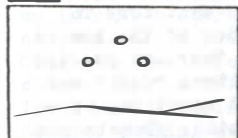
swear that there was someone all in black, doing something with their hands all in slow motion" (?)

79-164: May 1979 08.30 Airdrie, Scotland...Five boys observed a squashed cigar shape coloured dull orange drift across school playing fields and out of sight, taking 10 mins to do so. Sounds rather like this might have been a balloon reflecting the rising sun.

79-165: Nov 8 1979 16.30 Uphall, West Lothian...PC had just finished work at a factory and crawled through a hole in a rear fence to take a short cut home. This left him high on an embankment with a view over open ground. From here he saw a circular grey ball travelling low and very slow across rooftops. There was no sound. At the back was a slight gap and then the sky was reddish. This was not an effect of any obvious exhaust but as if the sky turned red after the UFO had passed, glowed for a few seconds and then returned to normal. The glow area was about twice the width of the UFO itself. This sighting was about 1 mile north of the site where forester Bob Taylor had his CE 2 encounter 18 hours later (the famous Livingston sighting)



8175: Oct 17 1981 Stewarton, Scotland...A 10 year old schoolgirl reports seeing the formation of three lights, colored red, as depicted. They remained stationary in the sky for about half an hour and then totally disappeared. There was no sound. This UFO type is known as the "pawmbroker" and is remarkably common (it happens to be the only UFO JR has seen!) Reason suggests that it is some kind of optical reflection phenomenon akin to a rock sun, although no conventional solution offers itself since it appears both in daytime and at night. But its manifestation is remarkably consistent.



8258: Aug 7 1982 Luss, Scotland...At about 9.30 am a number of witnesses were startled by the passage of a large 'bomber' type plane coloured dark green which flew very low over the village. It nearly hit chimneys then flew across the surface of Loch Lomond (on which the village sits). Residents are used to military activity in this quiet mountainous area (about 20 miles north of Greenock). ML insists "it was not a glider or helicopter". Luss is famous, despite its remoteness, being the fabled "Glendarroch" in the hit TV soap opera "Take the High Road". Hence the title of this review.....

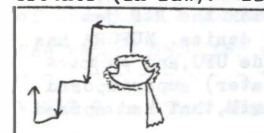
WYUFORG Case 6914 Jul 22 1969 Bradford, W. Yorks 20.00 Peter Chattaway

Investigator PC had his own encounter on this date, when aged approx 19. He was going to the pub with a friend, Kevin, who is now untraceable. Above them, in a cloudy sky, they observed a cigar shaped object that was glinting, with a red-yellow glow towards the rear and "lights" on the side, four in all, which they took to be windows or portholes at the time. The object was silent and stationary (elevation 50 degrees, in the WNW, apparent size in excess of tennis ball at arms length!) Five other distant witnesses also observed the phenomenon but were not approached at the time. After hovering for 15 secs the object disappeared into the low, thick cloud and was not seen again. No explanation obvious. (Lev C)



MUFORA Case 75-165 ?? 1975 Skelmersdale, Merseyside 22.00 Lev D

Witness WD and his wife were called out to observe the object by their brother (in law). All three watched the bright light for 1½ hours - as it remained stationary above cloud level, since it was periodically obscured by cloud. It was an indistinct shape, shown as opposite by WD and said to be "round" by his wife. A bluish beam emerged from it and it performed box-like motions in jerks, without moving in real terms very far. Several neighbours came out to see what the fuss was about. At 00.30 it was covered by thick cloud and no longer seen. MUFORA decided not to pursue investigation as the explanation is obvious (although without dates this can never be proven). The jerky motions are classic autokinesis effects and the stationary object was obviously a bright star, possibly Venus, through veiling cloud. No reason to doubt this solution exists, and so case is closed.



MUFORA Case 77-337 Jul 23 1977 Cleveleys, Lancs 22.10 Lev C

Witness KG, then aged 31, was in bedroom looking NW with light out. The two objects appeared below low cloud at a low elevation (15 degrees) and moved in a strange fashion heading SW, until obscured by low buildings. They were silent and in view about 10 seconds. They were not aircraft lights, according to KG, because they closed up and moved apart from each other in an erratic series of maneuvers. They were round (size of 50p piece at arms length!) and transparent in colour, although emitting light (?). "They did not look solid" witness claims. "They may have been part of a bigger object at higher altitude" KG suggests. Balloons or birds reflecting streetlighting? This is a MUFORA guesstimate. Or stray ground lights reflected off low cloud (eg car headlights). All such phenomena have been seen before.

UFO CHASED BY RAF JET?

Level B

MUFORA Case 78-278 April 1978 Blackpool, Lancs 12.00 Inv: Jenny Randles

Witness AB claimed to have four separate UFO experiences. One of these has been studied at length by MUFORA, as it involved a photograph of his roof (taken when filming his house on 28 May 1985). However, analysis proved beyond doubt that the "UFO" was a seagull, a conclusion with which the witness quickly concurred. He also observed a UFO "on New Years Eve 1979 - which a lot of people saw". This was, of course, the famous New Years Eve re-entry of Cosmos 1068 (see UFO REALITY). AB said that he owned this book when the explanation was proposed to him and "I agree that this is probably what I saw". However, it should be realised that if he had reported this "UFO" to an uneducated investigator a classic sighting might be on their files, since he chose not to refer to the explanation until JR pointed him towards it. These facts must be considered when evaluating this next sighting (and case 79-162 which follows)

It was a Monday on a hot cloudless day. AB was then aged 22 and a taxi-driver. He was waiting for a job when he looked at the blue sky and saw a jet vapour trail at 55,000 ft (sic) (if so high it is extremely unlikely his identification - "I saw that it was a lightning interceptor of the RAF" - would be possible). He was looking at elevation 75 deg. in the West, and he noted that ahead of the "RAF jet" was a second, much larger, vapour trail, which was pitch black and had a strange object at its fore. The object was black and cigar shaped (at right angles to the trail) and very large (tennis ball sized at arms length). Its outline was hazy or blurred. AB watched approx 2 mins as the RAF jet "closed up" on the giant UFO (assuming it to be at his estimated height it must have been a mile across!) The UFO then accelerated forward with a jerky motion and in seconds vanished "into thin air" (sic). The jet then turned away. AB regards this as evidence of an RAF jet chasing a UFO, and says of other witnesses "only the RAF". Such a sky spectacular over central Blackpool on a hot April day at noon would have been seen by thousands, of course. Even given the phenomenon's penchant for witness selection the RAF jet chase presumes an objectivity which this sighting report denies. MUFORA has concluded that the case offers no evidence of a bona-fide UFO, and proposes the tentative suggestion of a piece of dead matter (floater) superimposed onto the coincidental scene of a jet and an older contrail, that had spread out and darkened. We do not expect AB to concur.



MUFORA Case 79-162 Feb 1979 Blackpool, Lancs 22.00 Level B

AB, apropos above, might be considered a "repeater" if we take this case seriously also. He had gone to pick up a customer at a house and was at the front door waiting. Looking up he observed a hazy orange egg shape moving E-W across the sky in a zig-zag fashion. It took about 15 seconds to do so. Later he called the police, who had no other reports. A fireball meteor is one possible explanation for this.

Three lights in the sky WYUFORG Cases Level C

8333 (Aug 14 1983, Ilkley, W. Yorks. 22.45). White star like light traversing the sky E-W in about 1 hour. Could have been a satellite.

8420 (Jul 6 1984, Ilkley, W. Yorks. 22.30). Several witnesses observed a W light rise up from Beamsley Beacon (near the Menwith Hill establishment - see PENNINE UFO MYSTERY) then circle round over them. When overhead a slight drone heard and light resolved into three lights. Helicopter?

8516 (Apr 19 1985, Bradford, W. Yorks. 04.00). W light reported over CB and seen by several over 35 mins period. Obscured by cloud. Probably venus.

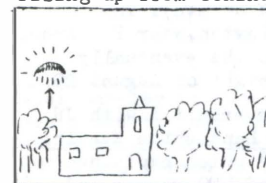
LIKE AN AIRCRAFT IN TROUBLE

SDPRG Case 8518 May 11 1985 Greatham, Cleveland 00.15 Level A

Thanks to AT Feeney, who investigated the case following a cutting sent to BUFORA. He inexplicably dates the event at 11 July - which is impossible as the cutting from the Hartlepool Mail is May 13. So I am assuming the date as above and trust SDPRG will check this please.

Principle witness is CH a 75 yr old man who was at home in bed. He had already been disturbed by "short bursts of deafening noise which had set the bedroom windows rattling". Then he heard a very loud noise "the whole of the air seemed to be vibrating. It was the most tremendous roaring". The spritely CH raced to the window, which faces NW over gardens towards

some trees. These are at about 400 metres from the witness. He then observed a shimmering blue arc light (no shape detectable) which was rising up from behind the tree line. It was in view no more than a few seconds as it climbed vertically. It levelled off at about 200 metres height, then disappeared. At the same time the loud noise vanished also. According to CH the strangest feature was that the trees were crammed full of roosting rooks. Yet these were not disturbed in the slightest. CH was so concerned he got up and walked into a field at the rear of the trees (there is a church yard at this point). But he found nothing. Many villagers appear to have heard the noise, although no other visual sightings are recorded. "It sounded like an airplane in trouble trying to take off" one said. Another woman added that it was an immensely loud buzzing sound. Earlier in May a "thunderous roar" was traced to the massive ICI plant at nearby Billingham (approx 3 miles SW). ICI deny any responsibility on this occasion.



NUN has reader Paul Screeton who lives at Seaton Carew, just 2 miles NE of Greatham. I wonder if he has any news to add?

See report 8520 for a second sighting in the Hartlepool area.

WAPIT Case 8519 August 22 1985 Accrington, Lancs 21.40 J. Cotton & C. Halsall

Raymond Broderick and wife (which NUN readers will recall for his flying fried egg of a couple of years ago) were at their front door facing SE watching the moon rise over a church when a circular object the size of a dinner plate at arms length (!- try it - that's half the sky!) moved off towards Burnley. An old lady saw it too "but thought she was seeing things".

WAPIT Case 8521 October 12 1985 Pendle Hill, Lancs 23.30 "" "" ""

Mr HC was in his car atop this spooky hill (famed for its witches and the 1977 Nelson car-stop case...one of just 20 or so UK cases on the CUPOS master computer file of classic cases). A brilliant white light appeared and glided silently over him (at an estimated height of 50 feet). It was the size of a ten pence piece at arms length and disappeared towards Accrington. HC says it was not an aircraft since he knows the lightning systems on them. But, of course, naughty aircraft have been known to glide silently over the Pennine Hills before.

SDPRG Case 8520 August 27 1985 Hartlepool, Cleveland 21.15 AT Feeney

Also reported in the Hartlepool Mail this sighting 3½ months after case 8518 & of note because the witnesses (Mr & Mrs Hills) were just 1½ miles north of the previous location and looking directly at the same area of trees where the blue arc-light hovered. They first observed a light in the SE, coming in from the coast - estimated about 2 miles from them. There was no sound, although the witness (Mr H) was outside his door (Mrs H was at an upstairs bedroom window which faces south). The light then proceeded to move to the west and hovered above the same woodland area where CH had had his previous encounter. It was now a brilliant silvery glow which lit up the sky around it. It halted here for several minutes before the brilliant glow diminished and the object moved off to the SW towards Stockton on Tees, losing altitude like a star and vanishing (an old Shadows hit from twenty odd years back was titled "Stars fell upon Stockton!")

The only point of note, is that Teeside Airport is about 5 miles east of Darlington (thus in a south west direction from where the Hills were - distance approx 15 miles). Could this have been an inbound aircraft which was put into a hold pattern with landing light on?

CAR CHASE LEADS TO NEW UFO GROUP....

On September 3 1985 a call channelled through from Jodrell Bank reached MUFORA, after several false starts. (Wrong numbers passed on etc). The call was from 33 year old cashier Mrs Hazel Shanley of Layton, near Blackpool Lancashire. Via the RAF recruiting office and the police she eventually found someone to listen to her tale which involves the night of August 29.

An RI form and detailed statement followed the phone conversation with JR (received September 10). Then, on September 21, the West Lancashire Evening Gazette carried the story "Encounter of a Close Kind..." which explained how after her sighting "Mrs Shanley contacted a number of UFO groups and went to the library for books on the subject". On the phone she confirmed that such was her concern over the adventure that she contacted just about everybody imaginable. She then placed an advert in the Evening Gazette and suggested that a Fyle UFO group be started. By September 21 this had become even more ambitious, "Mrs Shanley... hopes to produce a monthly journal giving the latest UFO information and details of 'sightings'".

How successful the Fylde group is remains unclear, although if it becomes active NUN will report its progress, of course. However, in early November JR had a very strange call from a clearly disturbed man who claimed to be a member of this group. He named Mrs Shanley as reference. "Get me out!" he screamed over the phone. "They've put me in a mental hospital. They're putting drugs into me. They won't let me go" he continued to scream. He responded to no meaningful questions, just kept repeating "Remember the secret - Under Johns Bed - remember that, please, please, please Jenny, Mrs Shanley told me I can trust you. Get me out. They have me locked up." This went on for ten minutes (at one point I put the receiver down as the conversation was getting nowhere and the poor man was beyond my help - I picked it up three minutes later and he was still talking to himself). Eventually the operator (who had earlier tried to get me to accept his call reverse charge, although he refused to give her his name) cut us off.

Running the risk that there might have been something in this (although what I do not know) I shall send a copy of this NUN to Hazel Shanley and hope she can elucidate this matter for us.

None of this has any real bearing on the August 29 sighting that precipitated it all. But it was important to put all these things into perspective.

To return to the sighting, Mr and Mrs S had been to France on a day trip. They disembarked from ship at Dover and left at 19.00 to drive to a farmhouse cottage where they were staying. They drove along the coast through Folkestone and at approx 19.45 were midway between Hythe and Dymchurch when HS saw two lights to the north-east travelling and parallel, then two more heading towards them. Two were white and the others red. They seemed to merge and the whole assembly moved along parallel with them. She assumed them to be aircraft at first (Lympne airport was 2 miles north of them at this time - JR) but then dismissed this view. However, despite feeling "jumpy" she did not tell her husband about the lights still pacing them, because she wanted him to keep his mind on the bending country lanes. She lost concentration sufficiently to misread the map and tell her husband the wrong turning. But still she did not explain about the lights. For the next two hours they drove 50 miles across Kent and Sussex backroads, stopping in a pub car park to find the right way. But HS was too scared to look into the sky and at no time told her husband, although the LITS paced them all the way. Finally they reached their isolated cottage at Little London (about one mile south of Heathfield in Sussex). It was now 22.00 and the object came much closer and hovered on top of them (this was an assumption as HS was too scared to get out and open the gate into the cottage believing the approaching object - which had not passed over - must be atop them). She now explained to her husband that she could not get out to open the gate because a flying saucer had followed them all the way from

Folkestone. Mr S got out and there was nothing visible, "it must have travelled quickly up into the sky" HS explains. She got a very good look at it as it shot over the car (see sketch). The girders at the base were brownish maroon. The three lights were silvery. All guests were brought from the cottage to look, but nothing else was seen either then or on the return journey to Lancashire, next day.

Hazel Shanley is positive she did not see stars, although what else would have paced the car for two hours? The girder like shape has often been 'read into' a bright light, by witnesses who have spent a lot of time looking at it. MUFORA are forced to conclude there must be an astronomical explanation for this case... but as if often true, a specific IFO appears to have generated a strange UFO experience which deeply troubled a serious and sensible witness. Such cases remain of much interest in the UFO field. What causes such a phenomenon to occur?

CASE HISTORIES

THE NORTH WALES LANDING Report by Margaret Fry (Contact)

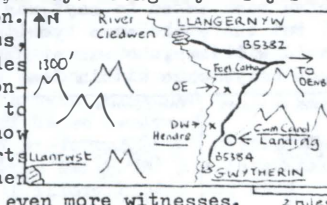
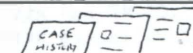
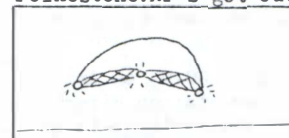
CE 1 Landing April 14 1984 Llangernyw, Clwyd 23.45 Level A

Margaret Fry will be well known to many UFO researchers for her own personal sightings (of which there have been many) and her field investigations in Kent. She recently moved to North Wales, where she is compiling case reports for us. Many more will be featured in issues to come. But, by "coincidence" (or in view of her "repeater" status who knows?), a major CE occurred in her home village not long after she moved there. Sadly, this time, she herself was not a witness. Nor her husband. But she has done a fine job collecting information about it. This has been despite a serious illness currently incapacitating her. All at NUFON say thanks - and GET WELL SOON, MARGARET.

The date is the first thing of interest. Readers will know that the period of the 2nd and 3rd week in April 1984 provided the wave of that year, with a number of impressive CE cases crammed into a ten day period. Statistically the significance is beyond doubt, as is the fact that the cases during that period tended to be of unusually high strangeness. A NUFON special on the wave is being considered for 1986. (Readers of "The Pennine UFO Mystery" might care to look at P110 and its prediction of a 21 month periodicity... the Jul 1982 wave appeared and the April 1984 one ties in exactly! On this basis the next wave ought to occur in January 1986 - so keep your eyes open! The next after that, Sep-Oct 1987, ties in with the 1987 10-year cycle so it should be bumper time. Not that anyone has any idea why such periodicities should work!!)

Now the venue. We are talking about a remote hilly region of north east Snowdonia, about 10 miles south of Llandudno/Colwyn Bay. Llangernyw is just a small village, but the largest area of habitation. Most of the region consists of small sheep farms, often approaching 1000 feet up on steep hill-sides and so largely inaccessible. For this reason no on-site evaluation was done. But Margaret talked to many witnesses who observed the events on this now locally famous night. And she has provided reports and sketches from several. Work continues and when she is back on her feet she hopes to track down even more witnesses.

The sighting location is about 20 miles north of Llandrillo, where in January 1974 a major "UFO crash" occurred (see UFO REALITY pp 152-153). The RAF and police search after this has much in common with the new events. The Llanerchymedd "landing" case of September 1978 is perhaps the closest in terms of similarity (see UFO REALITY pp 119-122). Indeed the events of that night (including subsequent RAF searches by helicopter) have a great



deal about them similar to the April 1984 landings. Llanerchymedd is about 35 miles WNW of Llangernyw.

Margaret Fry (MF)'s first contact with the events came at 00.05 on April 15, when she was awoken by much activity outside the police station directly opposite her cottage in Llangernyw. The flashing beacons and bustling is so unusual for this out of the way location that she got up and watched it for some time, but had no way of knowing what it signified. Then, at 06.26 that Sunday a huge racket awoke her (and most of the village!) A large yellow army helicopter arrived (narrowly missing the chimney!) and hovered right outside her window, disgorging a man into the police station. The chopper then rose again and landed in the school playing fields. Over the next six hours the military activity continued, as the helicopter made to and fro trips to the hills round Gwytherin (4 miles south). Two army trucks also arrived and deposited a dozen or so soldiers with back-packs.

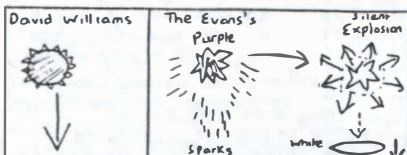
By 07.00 MF had given up trying to rest and gone out to the street where knots of villagers were gathered discussing the night's events. MF enquired what was up and received the startling reply, "Fancy you asking that! Didn't you see the UFOs landing last night?"

Many people apparently had seen them (despite the late hour - 23-45 - of arrival) because it was lambing season and many workers and farmers were out in their fields. Two had been seen (as orange balls of fire) in the sky to the north of Llanrwst, looping to the south east in a slow descending arc. They crossed the River Cledwen and the B 5382 and were lost in the hillside fields around Cwm Canol, a tiny hamlet/farm about half a mile north east of Gwytherin. In doing so they had been clearly visible from Llangernyw, to anyone looking south.

MF eventually interviewed about 20 people who observed something; although many were reluctant to put their view in writing. Typical was DHSS worker Tony Evans who (eventually) gave a verbal description but who feared for his job if he spoke too freely. Also a local policeman, and a farmer called Williams (at Cwm Canol itself) - who has not talked. Nine venture scouts camped on his land also had (like he) the closest view. But none of these have so far been prepared to talk. Apparently, the army that Sunday morning went around suggesting this to witnesses and stressing "it was just flares" to those who enquired. MF claims the venture scouts were specifically intimidated into not talking and all we know is that they came from the Staffordshire area.

The flares hypothesis seems not unreasonable (to a point) - indeed military activity does occur in the area (farmers are repeatedly plagued by jets on low flying training exercises - as I know, having spent much time in a caravan at Llandrillo - JR). However, there were no aircraft up that night. And despite discovering two flares in the field of Farmer Williams these were months old. Nor is it obvious why there should be such a fuss over a couple of spent flares! One farmer who joined in the search told the army this... "It's what we've been asked to say", was the reply!

But there are some eyewitness accounts. Closest of all was 37 yr old farmer David Williams, who was at Hendre on the B 5384 just outside Gwytherin. The UFO (one only) came within feet of him as it landed at Cwm Canol. "I will never



forget the eerie experience" DW says. He was at his car unhooking the boot when a bright pink/orange ball "several feet across" came into view. It was descending southwards onto the hill. He watched it about 2 minutes and then ran up the ridge about 100 feet and could then see over towards Cwm Canol. He saw it again for about 1 minute, now very near the ground, when it just vanished. None of his farm dogs were effected. Next morning he spoke to his neighbour Emlyn Jones. He had not seen it, but the army and Clwyd search and rescue teams were then scouring his field "They're looking for something - I don't know what" Jones claimed. DW filled out an RI form less than 24 hours after the event.

About 1½ miles north, at Foel Catha, 41 yr old farmers wife Olwen Evans and 12 year old son Emyl had been in their fields lambing when they saw the spectacle. It was first seen to the west as a brilliant purple sphere, very fluorescent and moving in a remarkable slow passage. Over Cwm Canol to the south it "exploded" into a shower of sparks - and out of the shower came a white disc! (Here is the explanation for the "two" UFOs). The disc then began to descend vertically and was lost (apparently landed) onto Farmer Williams field. Total observation time "at least five minutes".

What was seen? Parachute flares? Every single witness is familiar with the military goings on and is positive there was no sound (indeed "it was very, very quiet" was a frequent statement). No air traffic was in the area until that helicopter at 6.26 am. Would the military really go to so much trouble over a couple of spent flares? ... So what were they looking for?

As usual this is a question in need of an answer.

AIRCRAFT STRUCK BY "UFO" OVER RENDLESHAM FOREST!

On 29 November 1984 one of JR's contacts (an air traffic control officer at Farnborough) notified her about a supposed incident involving a UFO-aircraft collision near Ipswich (over Rendlesham Forest)! Needless to say the case was pursued with interest. It is time to publish an interim report on this; although all official letters to the MoD concerning it have gone without an answer.

My contact supplied the text of the October 1984 Accident Investigation Bulletin, carrying an interim account of the incident. Farnborough is the home of such accident enquiries, hence his access to this.

According to the report a Britten Norman Trislander cargo flight, bound for Amsterdam from Stanstead, had struck trouble at approx 00.55 GMT on the night of 24 August 1984. Over the forest at 5000 feet "in a period of slight turbulence" the pilot felt a slight bump in his controls. There was no immediate sign of damage but later the right engine controls seized. The Trislander is a small-medium three engine plane (passenger versions carry a dozen or so) and so the flight to Amsterdam proceeded as planned, although an emergency (safe) asymmetric landing was necessary. On landing substantial damage was discovered on the left propeller, control runs, cables and right engine controls. There were also holes in the fuselage. Metal objects "foreign to the aircraft" (as the report goes) were found imbedded into fuselage. It was speculated by AIB (Accident Investigation Bureau) that the objects had hit the propeller and then bits of it had become imbedded. The report adds, "The Met Office state that the debris is not part of a radio-sonde equipment" (weather balloon) also "Examination of a radar recording indicates no other aircraft or "identifiable objects" in the area at the time." These fascinating inverted commas are in the original report - so are we to assume something "unidentifiable" was there?

No further AIB reports seem to have followed (except see later). On Dec 7 1984 JR wrote to Stanstead (having got the registration letters of the aircraft) DA Hughes, airport chief, replied on Dec 19 and confirmed the incident and that take off time was 00.38 GMT but that my letter had been forwarded to the pilot and it was "up to him to communicate further....if he so desires".

I then learnt that said pilot was on Anglia TV in January 1985 displaying his aircraft still with the holes in it, an expensive delay for his cargo firm. However, the UFO relevance was not mentioned and my informant did not even mention the matter to me until I chanced to refer to the incident in passing.

Meantime, the East Anglian Daily Times (4 Jan 1985) in its "East Anglian Airscene" column carried a paragraph on it, citing the facts (or a few of them), adding that the propeller prop was seriously bent, that the largest fuselage hole was four inches by one half inch, that three "items" were discovered (one resembling a tyre valve, and two short cylindrical sections - one of which was magnetic). It found it necessary to add "it was not in collision with a UFO"

And to include a cartoon of an angel sweeping the bits off a cloud, to hit the

aircraft!

Eventually, on Feb 5 1985, the pilot did write to me, saying "Unfortunately we do not have any idea as to the cause of the event" adding the surmise that it might be a "weather balloon possibly many hundreds of miles from its place of launch". A photocopied photo of the three "items" was included. As shown they resemble real nuts and bolts!! An AIB note asking "Has anyone any ideas?" was also included! Nothing else has occurred save an article in The Observer (13 Oct 1985) "Nuts and Bolts from the Blue" in which David Keys summarises the large glut of cases in 1985 involving bits falling off aircraft.

The Trislander (wrongly called an Islander) gets three paragraphs. It adds that despite approaching both the CAA and the MoD the bits have not been explained. One had a serial number on it! It adds, provocatively, that some CAA officials "suspect that space junk or military objects may have been responsible".

Of course, this is hardly likely to be a UFO (with serial number)! But any reader of SKY CRASH will know why I find it of great interest. The Observer (living in Ridpath inspired cuckoo land) missed out on something, I fear.

We'll keep you posted.

FINAL

WORDS

:: No news on Coral Lorenzon, but the news on Allen Hynek is a little brighter. He spent 10 weeks in hospital, but my latest word (1 Nov) is that he is out and brighter than he has been. We still all send our love and thoughts, of course. :: Whilst we await a new cover from Iain Mrzyglod (who has promised one) I'll be using designs from NUN readers. Two different readers have contributed to date and an Iain Johnston one awaits next issue. But some more from any other artistic readers would be looked at with favour.

CALENDER Dec 14/15 Seminar Manchester University (Extra-Mural) "Science & ESP"
Feb 1 1986 London Business School - BUFORA Lecture 6.30 pm
Mar 1 1986 " " " (Preceded by NIC investigators meeting 2pm) (All investigators or groups welcome)

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